

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 03206 111534Z

64

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 IGA-01 SAJ-01 COME-00

AGR-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 111041Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3524

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 3206

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, RO

SUBJECT: FLOOD CONDITIONS AND AGRICULTURE

REF: BUCHAREST 3201 (NOTAL)

1. PRESS COVERAGE OF FLOODING CONDITIONS IN ROMANIA
HAS BEEN MORE AMPLE THAN ILLUMINATING AS TO
AGRICULTURAL DAMAGE. CITIES IN
ROMANIA'S BREADBASKET, THE BARAGAN, WERE HARD HIT--
URZICENI AND SLOBOZIA ARE STILL PARTIALLY UNDER
WATER--BUT EFFECT ON CROPS IS LESS BE-
CAUSE WHEAT HARVEST BEGAN EARLIER THERE. THE
BARAGAN'S EXPOSURE TO THE DANUBE MAY MAKE OTHER
CROPS EVEN MORE VULNERABLE IN COMING WEEK, AS HIGH
WATER REACHES THAT AREA.

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PAGE 02 BUCAR 03206 111534Z

2. JULY 10. ASCINTEIA REPORTED PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL

AREA CULTIVATED IN WHEAT HARVESTED BY COUNTY AS OF JULY 9 FROM DATA SUPPLIED BY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. FROM WEST TO EAST, PERCENT HARVESTED BY COUNTY IS: BIHOR 25, ARAD 19, MEDEINTI 38, GORJ 11, DOOJ 29, WHOLT#30 ARGES 7, TELEORMAN 31, DIMBOVITA 10, PRAHOVA 32, ILFOV 35, BUZAU 68, VRANCEA 50, GALATI 51, BRAILA 97, IALOMITA 62, TULCEA 93, CONSTANTA 70. REMAINING AREAS IN TRANSYLVANIA AND NORTEAST HAD ONLY BARELY BEGUN HARVEST IN EARLY JULY, BUT WHEAT CROP IS RELATIVELY LESS IMPORTANT IN MOST OF THOSE AREAS. NATION-WIDE, 20 PERCENT OF THE WHEAT HARVEST HAS BEEN BROUGHT IN, ACCORDING TO RECENT PRESS ACCOUNTS. BY JULY 4 BARLEY HAD BEEN HARVESTED IN OVER 83 PERCENT OF TERRITORY. HARVEST FIGURES DO NOT, HOWEVER, INDICATE WHAT PART MAY HAVE BEEN DAMAGED AFTER HARVEST OR TOTAL AREA SOWN IN EACH COUNTY.

3. SOGGY TERRAIN HAS LAID UP MUCH OF THE MECHANIZED EQUIPMENT, SO A LOT WILL DEPEND ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MANUAL EFFORTS FOR WHICH THE REGIME IS INCESSANT IN ITS URGINGS. THE PRESS CARRIES PHOTOS OF WORK BRIGADES THAT SEEM OUT OF PHARAONIC TIMES AND THE SLOGANEERING IS INTIMIDATING, BUT OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SCHOOL CHILDREN AND BUREAUCRATS PICKING PEAS CAN NOT MAKE UP FOR WHAT THE MACHINES WOULD DO IN BETTER TIMES. IN SOME AREAS WHEAT IS BEING HARVESTED BY HAND UNDER WATER IN HOPES THAT IT CAN BE DRIED FOR FODDER.

4. OTHER THAN WEARING THIN SMILES, AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS HAVE NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING ON THE EFFECTS OF FLOODING, SAYING THAT ESTIMATES CAN NOT BE MADE UNTIL DANUBE HAS CRESTED. THE DIRECTORATE OF WATERS HAS BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(TO BE PLACED UNDER THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS).
ALTHOUGH OFFICIALS SAY THIS WAS LESS A MEASURE TAKEN
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PAGE 03 BUCHAR 03206 111534Z

AGAINST THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY THAN AN ADMINISTRATIVE TIDYING-UP, SINCE THE DIRECTORATE OF WATZAFETUFMHAD ITS OWN BUDGET UNTIL NOW. BOTH IN AND OUT OF AGRICULTURE, WATER CONTROL WILL CLEARLY BE A PREOCCUPATION FOR A LONG TIME TO COME.
BARNES

NOTE BY OCT: #TEXT AS RECEIVED.

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